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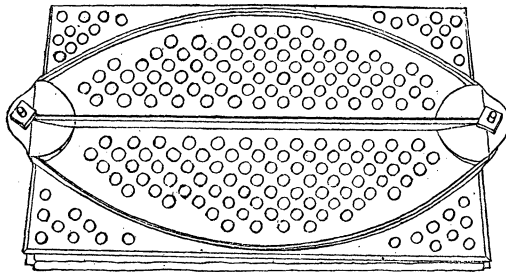
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*Japonica* are, accurately speaking, either latero-terminal or latero-axillary, the terminal and axillary positions, strictly so-called, being pre-empted, as it were, by the leaf-buds. Of course the actual bud development falls far short of the possible. Theoretically, a twig of five leaves might produce twelve flowers. The closest approach to this in the forty or fifty plants examined was six flower-buds on a twig with three leaves, the lower axil being vacant. The commonest case consisted of the terminal leaf-bud and one of its lateral flower-buds, together with a leaf-bud in one or two of the axils. The uppermost leaf is close to the end of the twig, and when the flower-bud is developed opposite this leaf, with the terminal leaf-bud between the two, the exact appearance is produced of a strictly terminal flower and an axillary leaf-bud designed to produce a sympodial continuation of the stem. This appearance vanishes when the flower-bud stands next the leaf, and when both the latero-terminal flower-buds are developed the true state of the case begins to be seen. The additional development of a leaf-bud and two lateral flower-buds in the upper axil, producing an apparently terminal cluster of two leaf-buds and four flower-buds, throws still further light on the matter. The partial or complete development of similar triplets of buds in some of the lower axils, and the discovery of undeveloped bud-germs in places where buds theoretically belonged but failed to appear, served to complete the chain of evidence in favor of the view I have advanced.

E. E. STERNS.

### A Method of Drying Plants with little Loss of Color.

The press used for drying plants is composed of two cast-iron



plates  $12\frac{1}{2}$  by 21 inches,  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch thick, and weighs about 32 pounds. Each plate has two hundred holes in it,  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch

in diameter. The pressure is applied by a small screw at each end. Between the plates are two sheets of ox-hair felt, each one inch thick.

The specimens to be dried are laid directly on the felt, without paper, and the press screwed up as tight as can be done with the thumb and finger, to flatten the specimen; then laid flat down, preferably where there is a draft or breeze, propping up the windward end 4 or 5 inches to allow the air to pass under it. At the end of six or twelve hours the press is opened to ascertain if the plants have become limp. If so, the press is left open twenty or thirty minutes. The felt and upper plate are then replaced, but not screwed down. In this condition it is left until dry, which is from one to four days. If the plants show any trace of shriveling, the screws are applied again to flatten them out.

When dry, the plants are laid between loose sheets of paper for at least four weeks, when they are poisoned. If poisoned sooner, the color in some species is much injured. Ballast plants, however, are poisoned as soon as they are out of the press, as the small insect, *Atropos pulsatoria*, is sometimes found on them in the field. In poisoning all specimens, be careful to poison the end of the stem. *Atropos* attacks the most tender parts first, and gets into the pith of the stem. By poisoning that, he is stopped at once.

There are a few species in which one sheet of paper under and over the plant is used to keep it from the felt; *Galium asprellum*, on account of the hooked prickles; *Cuphea viscosissima* is sticky all over; *Tipularia discolor* has large, waxy pollen masses, which, in drying, form a cement as hard and strong as glue, and the flowers of *Azalea viscosa*, are sticky. The thistles have straight spines, and do not require paper. The use of heat, either fire or sunshine, is a disadvantage, turning the plant black. Standing the press on end or on edge is a disadvantage, delaying the drying. The greater part of the moisture leaves the plant in a vertical line. When the press is on edge the moisture rises across the whole page by the longest and slowest line. When laid flat down it rises through the leaves and through the felt by the shortest and quickest line.

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